

**REMARKS**

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 4-6 and 19-21 are amended and claims 1-3, 7-18 and 22-31 are cancelled. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-6 and 18 are rejected.

Claims 19-21 are objected to.

Claims 4-6 and 19-21 are pending and under consideration.

**ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

On page 2, item 1, the Examiner indicated that the Species of FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B relates to claims 1-6 and 18-21 but not to claims 9-15 and 24-30.

Accordingly, in the foregoing, claims 1-3 are cancelled and claim 4 is amended to independent form, to include elements of the cancelled claims 1-3; further, claims 5-6 are amended to comply with amended claim 4.

Claim 19 is amended to include recitations of cancelled claim 18 and, thereby, to independent form and, further, claims 20-21 are amended to comply with amended claim 19.

**REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112**

On page 3, item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 4-6 are amended to recite - - first, second and third input ports respectively for first, second and third interleavers and, further, to change first through sixth "ports" to first through sixth - -output ports- -.

Accordingly, with these amendments, it is submitted that claims 4-6 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2.

**AMENDED INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 4 AND 19, AND CLAIMS DEPENDING THEREFROM ARE ALLOWABLE**

Amended claim 4 is not rejected over the art and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are submitted to have been overcome and, accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 4 and dependent claims 5 and 6, which depend therefrom, are allowable.

The Office Action on page 7, item 8 indicated that claims 19-21 contained allowable subject matter. The foregoing amendment of claim 19 to independent form, to include the limitations of claim 18, is submitted to render same allowable and, therewith, the dependent claims 20 and 21 which each depend from allowable claim 19.

#### REJECTION OF CLAIMS 4-6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

On page 3, item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The foregoing amendments to the specified claims 4-6 adopt the Examiner's suggestions for correcting same to overcome the §112, first paragraph rejections of same and, accordingly, are submitted to be free of the deficiency and in accordance with which the rejection should be withdrawn.

#### REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3 AND 18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 4, item 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. US 2003/0035168 by Qian et al. Applicants submit that the cancellation of claims 1-3 and 18 in the present Amendment have rendered this rejection moot.

#### SUMMARY

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims herein are now allowable over the art and rejections of record and over the rejections for indefiniteness. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

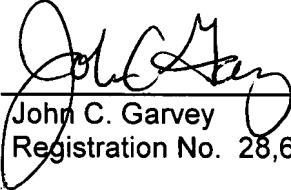
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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